

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a coating film at part of a surface of a substrate comprising in sequence the steps of:

i) applying a masking agent comprising inert enamel solid particles over part but not the whole surface of the substrate by passing the masking agent through a screen which has certain areas which are blocked to provide a pattern,

ii) depositing under at least partial vacuum the coating film over at least part of the surface of the substrate which is covered by the masking agent and over at least part of the surface of the substrate which is free of the masking agent,

iii) removing the masking agent which is covered by the coating film from the substrate by application of a fluid comprising water, so as to provide a portion of the substrate substantially free of the coating film.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the fluid consists essentially of water applied as a liquid.

5 - 12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent is removed by application of a fluid comprising water.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the masking agent comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of alcohol solvents, aromatic

U.S. Application No.: 10/509,176
Attorney Docket: 4004-61

solvents, aliphatic solvents, water and combinations of two or more of these substances.

16. Canceled.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the masking agent has a viscosity comprised between 25,000 and 40,000 mPa.s.

18. Canceled.

19.- 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the fluid is applied at a pressure of less than 120 bars.

27.- 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the masking agent is dried at a temperature comprised between 10°C and 200°C before applying the coating film.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the coating film is a solar-control coating film.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the substrate is a sheet of glass.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the portion of the substrate substantially free of the coating is a peripheral portion of the substrate.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the portion of the

substrate substantially free of the coating is a data transmission window.

34. (Withdrawn) A substrate comprising a masking agent over part but not the whole surface of the substrate and a coating film deposited over at least part of the substrate which is covered by the masking agent characterised in that the masking agent is removable with a fluid consisting essentially of water.

35. (Withdrawn) Use of a masking agent comprising a substance selected from the group consisting of i) enamels, ii) inert solids, iii) glass, iv) particles of the solid phase of the masking agent of which at least 50% in number have a diameter which is within $-4\mu\text{m}$ and $+4\mu\text{m}$ of the mean number diameter of said particles and v) combination of two or more of the aforementioned.

36. (Withdrawn) A glazing comprising:

- at least one sheet of glass,
- a coating film over at least part of the surface of the at least one sheet of glass, characterised in that traces of a masking agent comprising at least one substance selected from the group consisting of enamel, glass and inert solid are present at the boundary between at least one non-coated portion and at least one coated portion of the at least one sheet of glass.

37. (Withdrawn) A glazing in accordance with claim 36, in which the coating film is a solar control coating film.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a coating film at part of a surface of a substrate comprising in sequence the steps of:

- i) applying a masking agent comprising a substance selected from the group consisting of one or more of (a) enamels, (b) inert solids, (c) glass and (d) particles of the solid phase of the masking agent of which at least 50% in number have a diameter which is

within $-4\mu\text{m}$ and $+4\mu\text{m}$ of the mean number diameter of said particles and in which the masking agent has a viscosity comprised between 25,000 and 40,000 mPa.s;

ii) depositing under at least partial vacuum the coating film over at least part of the surface of the substrate which is covered by the masking agent and over at least part of the surface of the substrate which is free of the masking agent, and

iii) removing the masking agent which is covered by the coating film from the substrate, so as to provide a portion of the substrate substantially free of the coating film.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent comprises particles of glass.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent comprises said particles of the solid phase of the masking agent.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of alcohol solvents, aromatic solvents, aliphatic solvents, water and combinations of two or more of these substances,

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent is applied to the substrate by passing it through a screen which has certain areas which are blocked to provide a pattern.

43. Canceled

44. Canceled

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the masking agent comprises enamel.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the coating film is a solar control coating film.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the substrate is a sheet of glass.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the portion of the substrate substantially free of the coating is a peripheral portion of the substrate.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 38 in which the portion of the substrate substantially free of the coating is a data transmission window.